Mr. Bill Dick
National Enquirer
600 South East Coast Ave.
Lantana, Fla. 33462

4/19/77

Dear Bill,

We liked Ron. He is a good person.

Although it was not my purpose when I began to write you I do have a suggestion to make about him.

The Enquirer keeps reporters shuttling from one story to another. This is not uncommon but on a story as long-lasting as assassinations I believe you should have in-house experts. You as an editor can't be. When Rod gets shipped to places like Africa he can't be. Ron has had an intensive week, probably too intensive by far, but some of it will stick and it is what no reporter anywhere has had, access to all these once-secret records.

There is a changed situation. This will last for a while. On the one hand the major-media attitude has shifted. The story is no longer a nono except for ridicule. On the other there is a committee of wilpeople, Members and staff alike. As a friend I warn you the potential of libel is very real. Only what is an official committee act is immune. Or statement. Or one by a Member. Leaks and staff statements are not. If I were de Mohrenschildt's daughter or widow I'd be taking a big hunk out of ABC. The carelessness on this is astounding. Oltmans is not the only case.

When you turn so many reporters loose on so many controversial questions and when they depend on those to whom they talk - and when journalistically you have permitted yourself little choice - the risk of costly and unnecessary litigation is great. You know how much it can cost to win a suit or get a spurious one thrown out.

If Ron has time to read what he has, books and records both, he'll be an added asset.

It is about the records that I write. The agreement was that I'd make them available but that none would be used without pay. It will not take long to lose track. I have no idea what Ron has. He went through what he wanted to go through, copied what he wanted, and I neither asked nor looked.

In this you have an extraordinary good bargain. It cost me a fortune to obtain those records. Even the xeroxing cost alone was high.

I am not worried about being cheated. I know this will not happen. Without this certainty I would not have opened everything to Ron. But error is possible with the best of intentions. The more time passes and the more these copies get scattered the higher the probability. Especially with so many people to have access to them. And then maybe you'll retire again and you will have no contact with this.

My suggestion is that you have a rubber stamp made and have a clerical employee stamps the reverse of each page with whatever reminder of this arrangement you find appropriate. It is one way of protecting me against accident.

Ron was here for seven full days. Prior to that there was a hectic period of so many calls I can t count them all but I know the names of at least a dozen of your people who had been strangers. Then there were the large parts of two days with Paul Einstein and the costs of that. I believe I wrote Donald about this.

I'd appreciate it if this could all be cleaned up partly because when it is not it gets lost. I've had this experience. Partly because I need this money for the obtaining of the other records I'me getting regularly.

On another subject I've obtained at least 10,000 pages in the last six months. Much more than I need for a book. If I did not have the urgent need to be able to pay these costs that are very heavy for me I'd never have made this arrangement. I'd be writing that book.

So I'd appreciate it if you would take care of all of this as soon as you can and make an effort to walk it to at least near the end of your accounting department. I'm sure that in their usual business they are effecient. My experience is that when they depart from their norm I have troubles.

I have a new arrangement here that slows down use of this kind of money once I receive it.

Once I was taken ill I established an estate. Jim Lesar and Howard Roffman are the executors. Unless someone comes forth with funding all the records will go to Wisconsion, under Professor David Wrone. And I have a special account in Washington for paying the government. Jim Lesar has a power of attorney on it and draws all the checks on it.

So there will be no IRS problems we deposit all checks in our account and then draw these sums from it and send them to the Washington bank. But this does slow everything down.

On the King assassination there is going to be quite a story. I have it and will be writing it as soon as I can. I mention this because you read the proofs of Lane's book. Bleieve none of it and you'll be safe. It is an exploitation, hasty, vicious, undependable and not uncommonly wrong-headed. He succeeds in what I would have considered impossible, defraing and abusing the FBI.

It would be a better book if it were only misinformation. It is disinformation.

Best wishes,

Harold Weisberg